

December 4, 2018
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fertilizer Certification Class

In the past few years there have been changes to applying fertilizer. The need for a certification actually started on September 30, 2017. Several people now have that certification and some will need to renew it in the next few months. For those who have not yet been certified, or those who have been certified and failed to renew their license or certification, we have a class scheduled in Georgetown on January 31 at the Brown Co. Fairgrounds from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

This class will be for those who apply fertilizer on their own land as private applicators and for those who are commercial applicators. I will have more information in the coming weeks including registration details.

Managing Black Vulture Predation

Black Vultures have been a problem for several years in this area. Livestock producers have had to deal with these predators with several species, especially during birthing time on the farm.

OSU Extension in Highland County will be offering a program on how to deal with these predators. Gary Ludwig, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, will be the presenter. The program will be on Monday, December 10, starting at 10:00 a.m. The program will be at the Ponderosa in Hillsboro. This is a free program that will cover Black Vulture Identification and Habits; Fact and fiction regarding the Black Vulture's Protected Status; Applying the Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) Process to Black Vulture Problems; Obtaining and effectively utilizing a Federal Depredation Permit and The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) as Administered by the FSA.

Seven Things a Small Cattle Producer Should Know

In Ohio the numbers I keep hear for the average size herd is 17 to 18 cows. In many cases the buying and selling of livestock is different for small producers compared to someone with say 100 cows. Buying feed, buying or baling your own hay, purchasing or leasing a bull, keeping or buying replacement heifers, and the list goes on. The following was in the Beef Blog recently from Joe Paschal and was written by Rick Machen and can be found in the publications at Texas A & M. I have not included the entire article, so you can go to the web to read it if you wish. I think the points I have included from his list is as good for southern Ohio as it is Texas.

There are some important things all of us need to remember in this business. The first is to be good stewards of our land and its resources, namely the soil, grass, water and wildlife. They are the basis for our livelihood. In my opinion, cattle producers don't get enough credit for what they do and have done to improve wildlife habitat.



The second important thing is to have a herd health program designed with your veterinarian. They know the disease and parasite issues in your area and what works and what doesn't.

Third is to make sure your cows get enough to eat. Body condition scores, forage cover in your pastures and plant selection and grazing behavior of your cows are good indicators of that. Fat cows are productive, happy cows. Don't forget the water.

Fourth, reproductive performance is the single most important factor in profitability; some say it is 10-20 times more important than growth. The number of calves weaned is more important to profitability than weaning weight. Fertile bulls and cows are required.

Fifth, with winter here, always get the most out of your supplements, including hay. It is expensive to make or purchase, and some of you feed a lot of it. Cut it right, store it right and have it tested. Buy it by the ton, not the bale. Feed it to minimize waste.

Next, economy of scale works against us as smaller producers. Purchase products in larger quantities whenever you can if you are going to use them eventually. Consider leasing or renting equipment, bulls or labor rather than purchasing them.

Finally, remember, you never know enough. Producing beef for the world is ever changing. Changes in public policy, property rights, weather, markets, costs, regulations, urban sprawl and land fragmentation all have an effect on the cattle business. Spend some time learning more about the business, support those organizations that look out for your interests and learn to be a good neighbor.

Dates to Remember

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| December 10 | Pesticide Testing at noon at the Old Y Restaurant. Pre-register at ODA by calling 800-282-1955 or online at http://pested.osu.edu |
| January 14 | Pesticide Testing at noon at the Old Y Restaurant. Pre-register at ODA by calling 800-282-1955 or online at http://pested.osu.edu |
| January 16 | Small Farm College will begin. This is an 8-week course offered from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. This OSU Extension event will be in the round room at North Adams High School. Registration material will soon be available at the OSU Extension offices throughout Ohio including the Adams County Office. Materials are available online today. Go to the OSU Extension Website, http://adams.osu.edu |
| January 22 | Beef Quality Assurance Certification. Union Stockyards with the meal beginning at 5:30 p.m. The program will begin at 6:30 or once everyone is finished eating, so please do not come at 6:30 to eat. Call Janet at 393-1958 to register. |
| January 31 | Fertilizer Certification for commercial and private applicators in Georgetown in the Administration Building on the Brown Co. Fairgrounds from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. More details to come. |